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ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY. By S. E. Forman. New York: The Century Company. 1914. pp. xiv+634.

This is decidedly one of the best text-books on American history which have yet appeared. According to the author, the three great aspects of our growth as a nation are, first, the forces of civilization pressing ever westward upon the wilderness; second, American conquests and inventions in the economic world; and third, American ingenuity working out new solutions of the problems of government. In dealing with the first of these aspects, the author has not failed to bring out all that is picturesque and dramatic in pushing back the frontier until it has vanished from our midst. More space is devoted to this westward movement, to the life of the settlers, to the public land system, and to frontier problems than in any other similar small text-book we know of. Maps, diagrams, and pictures aid the description. Under the second aspect, social and economic betterment, the author gives us a capital short history of American civilization. Finally, the author's experience as a writer on civics has well equipped him to present clearly to the student the working out of popular rule down to the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Commission System. In the unfolding of his story Mr. Forman possesses in unusual degree the art of lucid and orderly presentation. The book is well equipped with maps and with illustrations. References and suggestions for independent work follow each chapter, as well as a list of books for special reading. The index is good and full.

S. L. WARE.

PUBLIC OPINION AND POPULAR GOVERNMENT. By A. Lawrence Lowell, President of Harvard University. New York: Longmans, Green, & Company. 1913. pp. xiv+415.

President Lowell takes as his text for the discussion of political problems which is embodied in this book a fundamental principle of modern popular government. That is to say, he considers "the conduct of public affairs in accord with a public opinion which is general, although not universal, and which implies under certain conditions a duty on the part of the minority to submit" (pp. 7-8). In the amplification of this text

the work is divided into four parts, which successively deal with the Nature of Public Opinion, the Formation of Parties, the Methods of Expressing Public Opinion, and the Regulation of Matters upon which Public Opinion Cannot Directly Apply,—i.e., representation “by sample,” expert administration, and the “control and recruiting of experts.”

Of necessity the first two parts are largely theoretical; but their subjects, the nature of public opinion and the function of parties, are treated with a breadth of vision and a strength and clarity of purpose that make them models of the art of exposition. The remainder of the book is more practical, and practical in such a way that it well would serve as a bible for the political guidance of many of the departments of our national and state administrations to-day. What a blessing it might prove to our government, if some of our confident and jocund “statesmen” only would read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it! The author clearly shows the difference between actual government and so-called “practical politics.”

Readers of the previous writings of President Lowell have learned long ere this that they may expect to find brilliant scholarship and a wealth of suggestion embodied in his work, and to them this new volume will not be a disappointment. It must appeal first of all to the student of political science, who will find in compact form a clear analysis of the relation between public opinion and government. Also it will prove to be invaluable to the general reader, for from this work he will receive great help in the understanding and the appreciation of a democratic form of government and the problems involved in its successful working. In support of this statement it is only necessary to mention the fact that the various problems of representative government, as well as much new and popular instruments for the expression of public opinion, of the initiative and referendum, are treated in a thorough and comprehensive manner without a shade of partisan bias or prejudice.

In this connection a brief quotation will show the spirit in which the book is written: “There are said to be monkeys in Africa so imitative that they copy faithfully the huts of men, and then live outside of them instead of inside. Political imitation

is not free from this danger of copying the obvious, while failing to perceive the essential in the working of a foreign government" (pp. 280-281). The volume furnishes an important and most valuable addition to the "American Citizen Series," of which it is a part.

WM. STARR MYERS.

ANCIENT GREECE: A SKETCH OF ITS ART, LITERATURE, AND PHILOSOPHY, VIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH ITS EXTERNAL HISTORY FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE AGE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT. By H. B. Cotterill. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

The writer states in his preface that he has essayed to give, by means of description, illustration, and quotation, a compendious history of Greece from earliest times. Such an undertaking is obviously wellnigh colossal, and one is not surprised, therefore, that the work bulks 483 pages—bulks so large, in fact, as to be rather unwieldy for practical purposes. The comprehensive character of the volume will be revealed by a glance at the titles of its nine chapters: I. The Ægean Civilization; The Acharnian Supremacy. II. The Dark Age. III. From the First Olympiad to Peisistratus. IV. The Age of Peisistratus. V. The Persian Invasions. VI. The Rise of the Athenian Empire. VII. The Peloponnesian War. VIII. The Spartan and the Theban Supremacy. IX. The Rise of Macedonia; Philip and Alexander. Sections bearing on the contemporary life, literature, and art of the Greeks are appended after each chapter. At the end are brief chapters on Greek Temples, Dress, Coins, and Vases.

The whole book is a very good example of recent tendencies to restore and interpret the ancient past through the medium of its various recorded activities, whether in its literature or on its monuments and other archæological remains. Thus, in each chapter, we have, as it were, a conic section of Greek life, with its divers streaks of science, art, philosophy, poetry, politics, religion, war, social customs, and what not. The effect of this effort at coördination of material is sometimes confusing and even bewildering, especially as the writer has allowed himself in places to ramble, anticipate, and double back. But what has been sacrificed of orderly statement and presentation has been offset, in part at least, by the gain in the impression produced of